[028] CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for locating a cutter in a web fed photo imaging system including the steps of:

measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials;

calculating an average actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials;

calculating a feed distance scaling factor equal to a difference between an average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials; and

adjusting the imaging engine feed distance in an amount equal to the scaling factor.

2. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 1 wherein the step of measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials further comprises measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials at a cutter location.

3. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 1 wherein the step of measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials further comprises measuring an actual fiducial distance between a first fiducial located near a first cutline of a media and a second fiducial located near a second cutline of the media.

4. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 1 wherein the step of measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials further comprises:

measuring an actual fiducial distance between multiple consecutive fiducials located along a length of an image, each of the multiple consecutive

fiducials located at an equal preselected distance one from the next; and

dynamically updating the scaling factor and the imaging engine feed distance.

5. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 1 wherein the step of measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials further comprises measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials with a sensor of a cutter control system.

6. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 1 wherein the step of calculating a feed distance scaling factor equal to a difference between an average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials further comprises calculating a feed distance scaling factor equal to a difference between the average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance input at the imaging engine divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials.

7. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 1 wherein the step of calculating a feed distance scaling factor equal to a difference between an average actual fiducial distance and the imaging engine feed distance divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials further comprises calculating a feed distance scaling factor based on a difference between the average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance measured at the imaging engine divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials.

8. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

calculating a standard deviation of consecutive actual fiducial distances; and

identifying feed errors based on a preselected deviation in consecutive actual fiducial distances.

9. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

calculating a standard deviation of consecutive actual fiducial distances; and

issuing a maintenance alert for an imaging system based on a preselected deviation in consecutive actual fiducial distances.

10. A method for locating a cutter in a web fed photo imaging system including the steps of:

printing consecutive fiducials at predetermined intervals concurrently with an image printing process;

measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials;

calculating an average actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials;

calculating a feed distance scaling factor equal to a difference between an average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between fiducials; and

adjusting the imaging engine feed distance in an amount equal to the scaling factor.

11. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 10 wherein the step of measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials further comprises measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials at a cutter location.

12. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 10 wherein the step of measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials further comprises measuring an actual fiducial distance between a first fiducial located

near a first cutline of a media and a second fiducial located near a second cutline of the media.

13. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 10 wherein the step of measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials further comprises:

measuring an actual fiducial distance between multiple consecutive fiducials located along a length of an image, each of the multiple consecutive fiducials located at an equal preselected distance one from the next; and

dynamically updating the scaling factor and the imaging engine feed distance.

14. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 10 wherein the step of measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials further comprises measuring an actual fiducial distance between consecutive fiducials with a sensor of a cutter control system.

15. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 10 wherein the step of calculating a feed distance scaling factor equal to a difference between an average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials further comprises calculating a feed distance scaling factor equal to a difference between the average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance input at the imaging engine divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials.

16. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 10 wherein the step of calculating a feed distance scaling factor based on a difference between an average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials further comprises calculating a feed distance scaling factor based on a difference

between the average actual fiducial distance and an imaging engine feed distance measured at the imaging engine divided by a total number of discrete incremental moves between consecutive fiducials.

17. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

calculating a standard deviation of consecutive actual fiducial distances; and

identifying feed errors based on a preselected deviation in consecutive actual fiducial distances.

18. The method for locating a cutter of Claim 10 further comprising the steps of:

calculating a standard deviation of consecutive actual fiducial distances; and

issuing a maintenance alert for an imaging system based on a preselected deviation in consecutive actual fiducial distances.